

NEW YORK, NEW YORK
HERALD TRIBUNE

MORNING 355,898
SUNDAY 451,270

CPYRIGHT

OCT 9 1962

\$62 Million For Cuba— A Mystery

By Marshall Peck
Of The Herald Tribune Staff

The ransom — Castro had asked for \$62 million — necessary to bring about the release of the Bay of Pigs invaders has been raised, or nearly raised, the Cuban prisoners committee said yesterday. But no one was giving any details.

How much has actually been contributed? Where did the money come from? No firm answer could be learned in New York, Washington, Miami or Havana. But these points emerged:

There was increasing speculation the Administration was involved to a large degree as a behind-the-scenes expeditor of the exchange. And that funds from the Central Intelligence Agency were perhaps being used.

On the surface, no preparations have been made to utilize surplus foods for medicines for the barter.

Other international welfare agencies doubted very much the prisoners' committee claim that a large sum had been raised.

These views were learned in New York yesterday. The possibility of CIA being in the picture has been discussed by Republican leaders in Washington during the last few days.

The general feeling of Republicans in Washington, according to a sampling, was that the government was deeply involved in the swap and that the deal was far from being a "privately" arranged negotiation.

One Republican senator was quoted as saying in Washington: "Where in the hell are they getting the money?" Then he said it might well have come from either the CIA or the President's contingency fund, both of which have budgets which need not be accounted for publicly.

Some members of the Cuban exile community in New York expressed the opinion that the government had of necessity financially assisted the fund drive.

And whatever the medium of exchange that was finally to be decided, many still called it outright ransom.

A spokesman for Republican Sen. Jacob K. Javits of New York, quoted the Senator's view's that it was "a ransom forced upon us by the humiliating Bay of Pigs incident."

Sen. Homer Capehart, R., Ind., said from his home in Washington, Ind., that "the exchange was ransom of the first order."

Still, the question of exactly how a trade of food and medicine for the prisoners could be arranged remained shrouded in mystery.

Drug companies said they had received no requests to sell or donate medicines. A spokesman for the U. S. "Food for Peace" program in Washington said that as of yesterday, the organization had "no involvement" with the negotiations.

CPYRIGHT